

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## SOUTHEAST ASIA BAPTIST YOUTH ASSEMBLY

From July 16 to 22 the second Asia Baptist Youth Assembly was held on the International Christian University campus with a total of 250 delegates attending. Ten foreign countries, Taiwan, Thailand, India, Indonesia, Hongkong, Ceylon, Okinawa, Burma, Macao and the Philippines, were represented by 129 representatives. The total attendance was about three times that of the first conference held in Hongkong five years ago.

Rev. Masayuki Sawano, executive secretary of the Baptist Domei (Japan Baptist Union), presided at the meetings which utilized both English and Japanese. The theme of the conference was "The Gospel-The Power of God. The conferences are held for their fellowship value and development of interest in "missions". The presentation of the representative delegate from each country was a particularly impressive part of the program as each delegate stood before the whole assembly and recited the sixteenth verse of the first chapter of the book of Romans in his native tongue.

In the group discussions which followed the main addresses each morning, the "Peace Problem" was discussed from the stand-point of the effect which world political movements had on the



church life of the Christian youth in this time of world crises. In discussing the "Church's Mission of Witness" a more positive policy by the Church was called for, to meet the phenomenon of people not being able to attend Sunday worship services because of the development of modern industry. In discussions centered on "The Christian Home", the request was made for prayer to support the efforts in Japan to develop Christian homes. It was noted that the Japanese were behind the rest of Asia in this part of the total Christian life.

Some inconvenience was experienced as only through the use of English could thoughts be exchanged, but through fellowship in Christ there was abundance evidence of a great resolve to think through together the problems of Asia.

#### MARRIAGE AND FAMILY SEMINAR

Miss Ai Sasaki, Secretary of Home and Family Life Committee of the Women's Department, reports that although there was concern at first that the number of applicants would be few, the committee actually had to refuse about 20 applicants as the limited facilities of Hoshino hot springs were not able to accomodate more. The good response to this first seminar probably reflects the timeliness of the subject. A total of 71 attended the seminar from July 19 to 21. Ages ranged from 19 to 70, with the great majority being young unmarried women.

The attendance by Roman Catholics, Holiness Church members, and others not related to the NCC also reflected the importance of the topic.

An array of capable speakers also contributed to the favorable response. Headed by President Kuwata of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, the list included Prof. Takashi Koyama of Toritsu University, Dr. Narabyashi a well-known medical doctor, Masao Takenaka of Doshisha University and Prof. Ichiro Suzuki of Aoyama Gakuin.

Besides the lectures and the fellowship of the meetings, individual interviews were held under the direction of the planning committee to help those attending in their search for specific answers to their various problems concerning marriage and preparation for marriage. The interviews were well received and the committee also greatly benefitted by being presented with many problems for study.

The setting up of centers where young Christian people of marriageable age could meet and where they could also receive medical and spiritual guidance concerning marriage problems was seriously considered.

#### DR. NOSS BIOGRAPHY PUBLISHED

The biography of Dr. Christopher Noss, a former missionary in the Aizu area (Fukushima Prefecture), said to have been regarded by the late Dr. John R. Mott as one of the 10 outstanding



missionaries in the Orient, has been published in both Japanese and English. The English edition, titled "Called Forth to Sow", was authored by Rev. Armin Kroehler, a missionary cooperating with the United Church of Christ in Japan and residing in Aizu-Takada, and was published by the Kyobunkan, Tokyo.

Dr. Noss was born in 1869 in Hangton, Indiana, studied at Lancaster Theological Seminary and under Dr. Harnack at Berlin University.

He came to Japan in 1895 and taught at Tohoku Gakuin until 1910 when he began pioneer evangelism work in the rural south Aizu district. Dr. Noss served as a missionary in Japan for a total of 49 years, dying in 1934 at his son George Noss's home in Aomori.

Sometimes called the "dean of rural evangelists," Dr. Noss was known by the young and old, Christian and non-Christian of Fukushima Prefecture. Making many trips into the remote south Aizu area on foot and by bicycle, he was especially loved by the farmers. Even today his name is often used by the people of this northeastern part of Japan as a synonym for foreigner. Much of the success of today's evangelistic effort in these areas is attributed to the seeds sown by Dr. Noss.

#### WORLD RELIGIONISTS' PEACE MEET

The World Religionists' Peace Conference was held in the International Conference Room of the Kyoto Kaikan Hall from July 25 to 28.

Thirty-three foreign and about 200 Japanese representatives of various religious organizations joined in this conference which was proposed last January by Japanese religious groups to discuss the preservation of peace and disarmament.

The foreign representatives from 12 nations included Earle Reynolds, American radiation researcher, Zhao Puchu, Vice-president of the Chinese Buddhist Association, Sin Pocx Kor, Cambodian Minister of Religion and Culture, Mrs. Shi Ru Zhang, Vice-Secretary of the Communist China YWCA, and Rev. Li Chu Wen, also Communist China.

According to the Christ Weekly the Japanese-Chinese Christian Fellowship Society has arranged a tentative itinerary for the latter two delegates from Communist China which calls for meetings in the Kansai area for three days following the Peace Conference and meetings in the Kanto area for four days following. Under the joint auspices of the NCC and the Evangelical Federation a welcome meeting will be held on the afternoon of August 2 according to the same report.

#### AVACO NEWS RELEASE

AVACO Executive to Represent Japan in UNESCO Conference  
Mathew S. Ogawa, Executive Secretary of AVACO, has been asked



the ministry of Education to be one member of a delegation of two to represent Japan at the forthcoming UNESCO conference of Directors of National Audio Visual Services on production and sharing of low cost educational visual aids, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, July 31-August 5, and has agreed to attend. This request came as a result of Mr. Ogawa's participation as one of delegation of three from Japan in a similar UNESCO conference held last year in Tokyo.

#### Consultation on Christian Drama Held

Taking advantage of the presence in Japan of Mr. James Warren, religious drama expert, AVACO recently called a consultation of interested persons to consider what should be done to stimulate the more effective use of Christian drama in Japan. Twenty persons, ministers, professional writers, professional and amateur drama producers, university drama leaders and representatives of AVACO and the Literature Department of the National Christian Council of Japan, met for four hours on Saturday, June 24, on the top floor of the Christian Center Building in Tokyo.

Short remarks by Miss Teruko Nagaoka, a leading producer of Shin Geki (modern drama), and Dr. Yoshizo Kitamori, professor of theology at Union Theological Seminary, Tokyo, served to lunch the discussion, which was based on a list of basic questions drawn up in advance by Mr. Warren, who also participated in the discussion.

Miss Nagaoka commented on her Christian up-bringing and remarked that she is much interested in religious drama and hopes that such drama, which leads men to search the depths of life, can be produced increasingly in Japan.

Dr. Kitamori commented on the kinds of images in communication and noted that not all images can be effectively dramatized, and that the discrimination between the different kinds of images is of crucial importance in deciding the role of Christian drama.

The group agreed that the greatest need in Japan is for effective scripts. It was also decided to attempt a rather large-scale stage production in Tokyo during the Easter season, 1962. A further meeting will be held in the autumn to decide what next steps should be taken.

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Notice: Because of summer vacation the next issue will be September 1, omitting the August 15 issue.

